

Serial No. 09/635,070  
Art Unit 2666

**Remarks**

Claim 1 has been deleted. Claims 2, 3, 9, 21, and 22 have been amended. Claims 2 to 22 remain in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 9-11, 21, and 22 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner has objected to claims 3-8 and 12-20, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

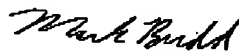
Claim 1 has been deleted. Claim 3 has been written in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 4 to 8 remain dependent on amended claim 3. Claim 2 has been amended to be dependent on amended claim 3.

Claims 9, 21, and 22 have been amended to include the limitation in previous claim 3, namely that the network elements include means to derive an estimate of the next real time stamp to be delivered by the master network element. The Applicant respectfully submits that this is a feature not taught or suggested by U.S. Patent 6,760,764 or by U.S. Patent 6,236,623, and that claims 9 to 22 are therefore not obvious in view of U.S. Patent 6,760,764 and U.S. Patent 6,236,623.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims at present on file and as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and action to this end is respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims as amended herein at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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